

Application No. 10/669,521
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claims 17-20 and the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 11 and 12 are respectfully acknowledged.

Claim 11 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its parent claim 1.

In addition, claims 11 and 12 have been amended to make some minor clarifying amendments to recite the features thereof in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 11 and 12 be approved and entered.

And it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 11 and claim 12 depending therefrom are now in condition for immediate allowance, together with allowed claims 17-20.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the amendments to claims 11 and 12 are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

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THE REJECTED CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 2 and 3, as well as to more clearly recite features of the present invention shown, for example, in Figs. 1-6 and described at, for example, pages 11-18 of the specification.

In addition, claim 13 has been amended in a similar manner to amended independent claim 1.

Still further, claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13-15 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

And new claims 21 and 22 have been added to recite the subject matter of claim 9, depending from claims 8 and 15, respectively.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 13-15 be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 20 claims of which 3 were independent, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such claims. The application now contains 18 claims, of which 4 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount

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of \$200.00 for the addition of 1 extra independent claim is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2001/0009498 ("Oross et al"). In addition, claims 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Oross et al and USP 6,262,824 ("Sasaki et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 13, a first engaging mechanism is disposed on the second case and has a decorative shape, and a second engaging mechanism is disposed on the cover member to be engaged with the first engaging mechanism.

As recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13, the first engaging mechanism comprises a first engaging portion, which comprises a projection, provided a tip end surface of the second case at an opposite side of the second case from the hinge unit, and second engaging portions provided near to the hinge unit on both side surfaces of the second case.

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And as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13, the second engaging mechanism comprises a first engaging portion provided at a tip end surface of the cover member at an opposite side of the cover member from the hinge unit, and second engaging portions provided near to the hinge unit on both side surfaces of the cover member.

And according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13, positions of the first and second engaging portions of the second engaging mechanism correspond to positions on the second cover of the first and second engaging portions of the first engaging mechanism, and the first engaging portion of the second engaging mechanism projects from the tip end surface of the cover member and defines a concavity which engages the projection of the first engaging portion of the first engaging mechanism when the second engaging mechanism is engaged with first engaging mechanism.

With this structure, since the first engaging mechanism has a decorative shape, even when the cover member is not mounted on the outer surface of the second case, the first engaging mechanism does not spoil the appearance of the electronic device.

In addition, sine the first engaging portion of the first engaging mechanism comprises a projection and is disposed on the tip end surface of the second case, and since the first engaging portion of the second engaging mechanism projects from the tip

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end surface of the cover member and defines a concavity which engages the projection of the first engaging portion of the first engaging mechanism, the projection (whether or not it is engaged with the projecting first engaging portion of the cover) can be used as a projection for facilitating opening and closing of the first and second cases about the hinge unit.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that neither Oross et al nor Sasaki et al, taken singly or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the second case and cover of the electronic device including the first and second engaging mechanisms having the structure recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13. And it is respectfully submitted, therefore, that neither Oross et al nor Sasaki et al can achieve the above-described advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 13, and claims 4, 7-10, 14-16, 21 and 22 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Oross et al, taken singly or in combination with Sasaki et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.


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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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